

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested.

Claims 4 and 7-13 remain under consideration in this application. Claims 1-3 have been withdrawn from consideration in view of the election entered in response to the first Office Action. Claims 5 and 6 have been canceled. Claims 4 and 7-13 have not been amended further and remain in their previously presented form.

Claims 4 and 7-13 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being obvious over JP6-2577 considered in view of JP2002-313482 and U.S. Patent No. 6,200,164 to Martin et al. The Office Action acknowledges that neither the Martin et al. reference nor JP6-2577 suggest a cam groove with a returning portion extending back towards the front side of the movable member at an acute angle to both the operating direction and the connecting direction and continuing to the end of the cam groove to displace the housing in separating directions as the follower pin is moved towards the terminus end of the cam groove. However, the Examiner turned to the JP2002-313482 reference in an effort to overcome this admitted deficiency of Martin et al. and JP6-2577. In particular, the Examiner asserted that FIGS. 13 and 21 of JP2002-313482 "show the cam groove 74 with the features as described above." As a result, the Examiner has concluded that it "would have been obvious to modify the connector of JP6-2577 by forming the cam groove with features as described above, as taught by Japan (482), in order to ensure properly mating between the connectors."

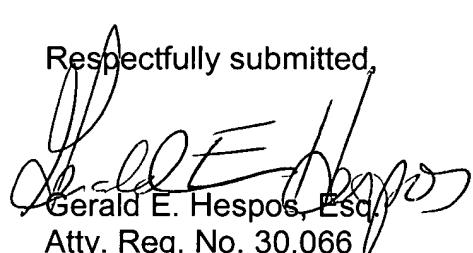
The undersigned attorney for the applicants carefully reviewed the JP2002-313482 prior to filing the above-identified application and conducted a further review after receiving the July 13, 2005 Office Action. It was and continues to be the opinion of counsel that portions of cam groove shown in JP2002-313482 near the terminus end of the cam groove extend perfectly parallel to the moving direction of the

slider 70. However, counsel does not read Japanese, and therefore concluded that expertise in this area would be helpful.

JP2002-313482 is assigned to the assignee of the subject application and the inventor for JP2002-313482 is one of the two applicants herein. Managers of the Intellectual Property Department of Sumitomo Wiring Systems, Ltd. reviewed the rejection with Hiroyuki Matsuoka and asked him to carefully review the JP2002-313482 reference for which he is the inventor. Mr. Matsuoka concluded that the assertions in the Office Action are not correct. More particularly, he concluded that his earlier work, as embodied in JP2002-313482, does not include a cam groove with a returning portion as claimed in the subject application. Accordingly, this amendment is submitted concurrently with a Declaration under Rule 132 executed by Hiroyuki Matsuoka. The Examiner will note that the Declaration supports counsel's position that JP2002-313482 simply does not teach or suggest a cam groove with a returning portion as set forth in the previously amended claims of this application.

In view of the preceding remarks and the Declaration, it is submitted that claims 4 and 7-13 are directed to patentable subject matter and allowance is solicited. The Examiner is urged to contact applicant's attorney at the number below to expedite the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,



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